Case 2634

Xeromunda Monterosato, 1892 (Mollusca, Gastropoda): proposed designation of *Helix candiota* Mousson, 1854 as the type species

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to designate *Helix candiota* Mousson, 1854, an originally included nominal species, as the type species of the terrestrial snail genus *Xeromunda* (HYGROMIIDAE). The name of the present type species, *Helix turbinata* Cristofori & Jan, 1832, is indeterminate but referred to Sicilian material, whereas *Xeromunda* was based on Greek specimens.

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1. Monterosato (1892, p. 25) established *Xeromunda* for a group of the 'Xerophilae' living in mainland Greece and 'Siria' (Syra, one of the Cyclades islands), and placed in it '*H. turbinata*, *Candiota*'. Xerophilae was a vernacular name derived from *Xerophila* Held, 1837, and not a family-group name. In the same year '*Hel. turbinata*' was designated as the type species in an anonymous (but believed to be written by Kobelt, the editor of the *Nachrichtsblatt*) report (1892, p. 152) of the Monterosato paper.

2. Although Monterosato and Kobelt did not specify the authorship of the *Helix turbinata* referred to, it is clear that it must have been the one usually known at the time as *H. turbinata* Cristofori & Jan, 1832, or more simply as *H. turbinata* Jan. They could not have intended to refer to *H. turbinata* Gmelin, [1791] (p. 3668) or Deshayes, 1830 (p. 265), because those do not belong to the 'Xerophilae', and *H. variabilis* Cafici, 1883 (p. 32), which included a 'var. *turbinata*', was placed by Monterosato in a different 'group' of the Xerophilae, namely *Xerolauta* Monterosato, 1892 (p. 23).

3. *Helix turbinata* Cristofori & Jan, 1832 was described (Conchylia, p. 4, locality; Mantissa, p. 2, description) as living in Sicily. No type material exists, since the collection of Cristofori and Jan in the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale in Milan was destroyed in the second world war. The original description is very brief, and might include many species, e.g. of *Cernuella* Schlüter, 1838. *Xeromunda*, on the other hand, was based on Greek specimens (the Monterosato collection in the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale in Rome contains only Greek material), and Mousson (1854, p. 10) had described *Helix candiota* from Greek localities as a species distinct from *H. turbinata* of Sicily; he regarded the latter as a synonym of *H. aradasii* Pirajno di Mandralisca, 1842 (p. 6). Mousson pointed out that Pfeiffer (see, for example, 1848, p. 155) had used the name '*turbinata* Jan' for Greek specimens. Kobelt (1877, pp. 106–107), while recognizing that *H. turbinata* had been based on Sicilian specimens, nevertheless on the grounds of usage continued to use the name for the Greek species: it was presumably in this (Greek) sense that he meant '*Hel. turbinata*' when in 1892 he designated the type species of *Xeromunda*. The identity of *H. turbinata* Cristofori & Jan and *H. aradasii* has been disputed, and since Pfeiffer various workers have used *H. turbinata* for Sicilian and/or

Greek material. This name is not only a junior primary homonym but is also indeterminate, and it has a confused history (see Manganelli & Giusti, 1989; further details have been given to the Commission Secretariat).

4. It is therefore recommended that *Helix candiota* Mousson, 1854 (p. 10) be designated as the type species of *Xeromunda*. This is the earliest available name for the species named '*H. turbinata*, *Candiota*' by Monterosato when he proposed *Xeromunda* and that meant by Kobelt when he designated *turbinata* as the type species. The designation of *H. candiota* is in accordance with past and current usage of *Xeromunda* (Hesse, 1934; Fuchs & Käufel, 1936; Clerx & Gittenberger, 1977; Hausdorf, 1988, 1990; Manganelli & Giusti, 1989).

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all previous fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Xeromunda* Monterosato, 1892, and to designate *Helix candiota* Mousson, 1854 as the type species;

(2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Xeromunda* Monterosato, 1892 (gender: feminine), type species by designation in (1) above *Helix candiota* Mousson, 1854;

(3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *candiota* Mousson, 1854, as published in the binomen *Helix candiota* (specific name of the type species of *Xeromunda* Monterosato, 1892).

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